

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-1007**

**311 Lennox Avenue**

**East Towson, Baltimore County**

**1885-1900**

**Private**

The dwelling at 311 Lennox Avenue was constructed between 1885 and 1900 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures.

This Gothic Revival-style wood frame dwelling is two-and-a-half stories high with a steep pitched front-gable roof and a center cross gable on the west elevation. There is a shed-roof porch across the full width of the façade. The porch is supported with non-historic square posts with a non-historic wood balustrade. The first story is three bays wide with a side passage entrance. The entrance has a one-leaf wood panel door and a two-light transom. There is an arched 1/1 double-hung sash window in the front gable roof. The remaining windows on the façade are replacement 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash. There is one fixed diamond-shaped light on the side elevation. The house has a boxed cornice encased with vinyl siding, and one interior stretcher-bond brick chimney. On the east side-elevation are two shed-roof wall dormers, each with a boxed cornice and 1/1 double-hung sash vinyl windows. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles, and the foundation is solid random rubble stone. There are two wood frame additions to the rear elevation. One is two-stories high with a flat roof, and the second is one-story with a shed-roof. On the rear elevation is a two-story flat roof wood frame addition with a poured concrete foundation.



## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1007

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Built between 1885 and 1900, this Gothic Revival-style wood frame dwelling fronts southwest on a level grassy lot. It is two-and-a-half stories high with a steep pitched front-gable roof and a center cross gable on the west elevation. There is a shed-roof porch across the full width of the façade. The porch is supported with non-historic square posts with a non-historic wood balustrade. The first story is three bays wide with a side passage entrance. The entrance has a one-leaf wood panel door and a two-light transom. There is an arched 1/1 double-hung sash window in the front gable roof. The remaining windows on the façade are replacement 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash. There is one fixed diamond-shaped light on the side elevation. The house has a boxed cornice encased with vinyl siding, and one interior stretcher-bond brick chimney. On the east side-elevation are two shed-roof wall dormers, each with a boxed cornice and 1/1 double-hung sash vinyl windows. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles, and the foundation is solid random rubble stone. There are two wood frame additions to the rear elevation. One is two-stories high with a flat roof, and the second is one-story with a shed-roof. On the rear elevation is a two-story flat roof wood frame addition with a poured concrete foundation.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 1007

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1885 ca.-present

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1885-1900

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The residence at 311 Lennox Avenue, constructed between 1885 and 1900, is an important contribution to the community of East Towson. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 1007

*Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acre

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The dwelling is located at 311 Lennox Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 491 since its construction in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	K. Baynard, R. Weidlich, J. Bunting, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	November 5, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



# East Towson: Planimetric Data



Prepared by:  
Baltimore County Office of Planning  
401 Bosley Avenue  
Towson, Maryland 21204  
June, 2001

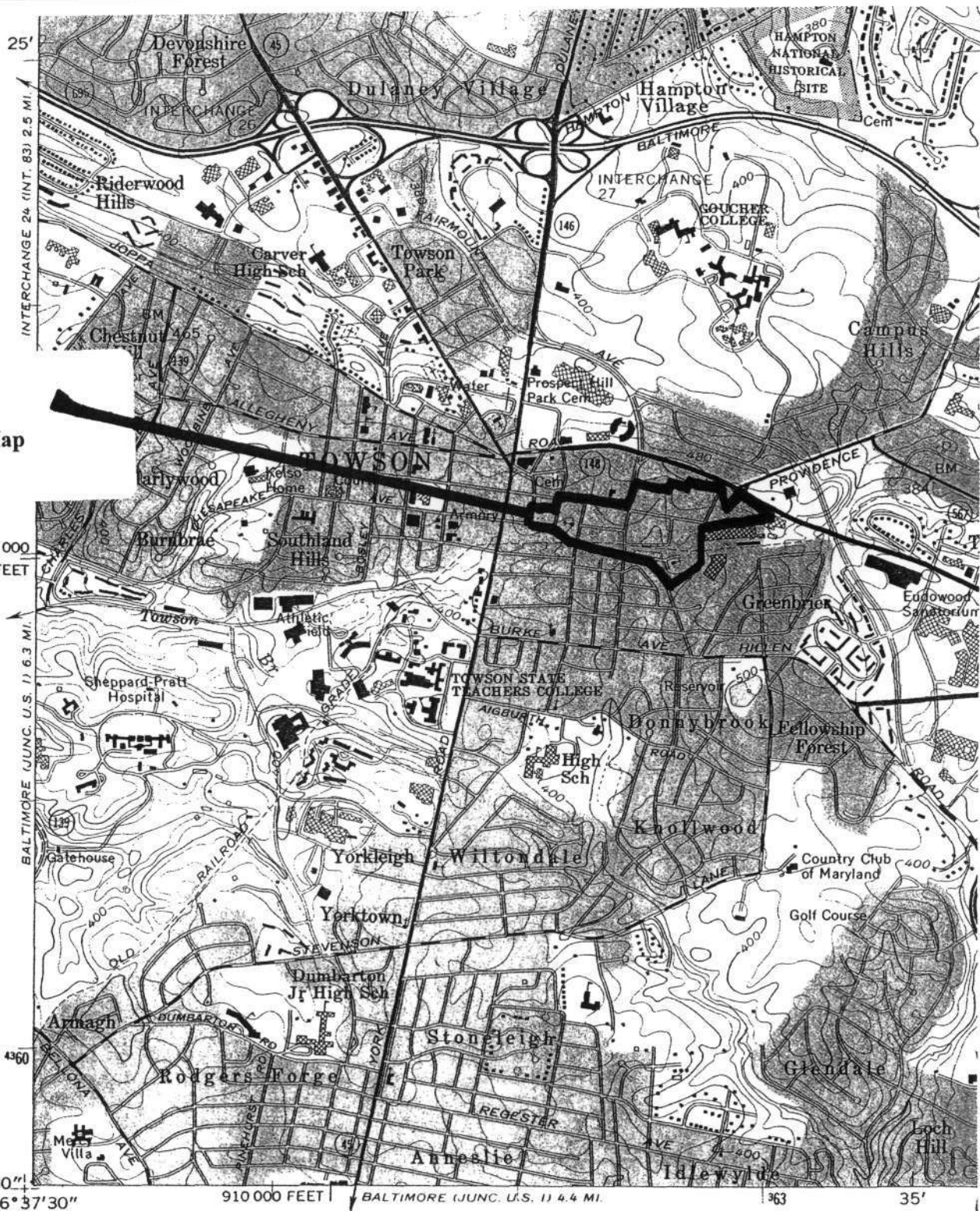


Scale  
1 inch = 200 feet  
1:2400  
100 0 100 200 Feet

Legend

Paved Roads	Study Area Boundary	Hydrographic Features
Unpaved Roads	Buildings	Vegetation
Paved Parking / Driveways		

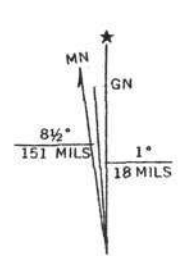
Data Sources:  
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)  
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)  
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)  
Coordinate System:  
Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum  
Elevations in Feet: NAVD88 Vertical Datum  
Date of Data Capture: March 1996  
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'



BA-1007  
 East Towson  
 Towson, Maryland  
 Towson USGS Quad Map  
 Baltimore County

(BALTIMORE WEST)  
 5662 SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland  
 Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps  
 Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
 taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944  
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957  
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 18, shown in blue  
 Red tint indicates areas in which only  
 landmark buildings are shown  
 Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from  
 aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not  
 field checked  
 Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET





BA-1007

HOUSE, 311 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

VIEW LOOKING NORTH, SOUTH ELEVATION

1 of 3

TRALERIES, 10/2001



BA-1007

HOUSE, 311 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

SOUTH EAST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST

2 of 3

TRALERIES, 10/2001



BA-1007

HOUSE, 311 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

NORTHEAST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST

3 & 3

TRALERIES, 10/2001



## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Field House  
AND/OR COMMON**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

311 Lennox Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

SecondMaryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Amos FieldsTelephone #: 685-3671

STREET &amp; NUMBER

309 Lafayette Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.County Courts Bldg.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

BA-1007 - 311 Lennox

c. 1905 - 1915

Both wooden and asbestos shingles decorate this house.  
An unusual feature is its main roof, with a cross gable on one side and two shed dormers on the other.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD            | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |

## CHECK ONE

- ☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

- ☐ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

311 Lennox Ave.

A great assortment of decorative elements create a unique character in this two-story frame house. The main body of the house is covered in alternating rows of red, green, black, or beige octagonal asphalt shingles. The south gable and west cross-gable are covered with wood shingles and feature arched windows. Two shed dormers on the east roof slope each contain a rectangle-in-a-diamond motif above a 6-pane window.

The main section is followed by a small two-story addition with an original attached outhouse, and a one-story shed-roofed kitchen. The windows contain 2/2 sash and have louvered shutters with faded blue paint. The front porch, enclosed half-height, is supported by turned posts and brackets with a curved-sawtooth design. The first section of the house has a stair hall on the west and a parlor on the east. There is an exterior cellar entrance on the east wall of the stone foundation.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE****PERIOD**

☐ PREHISTORIC  
☐ 1400-1499  
☐ 1500-1599  
☐ 1600-1699  
☐ 1700-1799  
☐ 1800-1899  
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ ARCHITECTURE  
☐ ART  
☐ COMMERCE  
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING  
☐ CONSERVATION  
☐ ECONOMICS  
☐ EDUCATION  
☐ ENGINEERING  
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
☐ INDUSTRY  
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
☐ LAW  
☐ LITERATURE  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSIC  
☐ PHILOSOPHY  
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION  
☐ SCIENCE  
☐ SCULPTURE  
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  
☐ THEATER  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This house was built around the turn of the century  
 (1915 map indicates structure was present) by Goldus  
 Hinton. It was later conveyed to his grandson Amos  
 Fields in around 1967 at which time Amos Fields rented  
 the property to the present residents of 311 Lennox Ave.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marcus Pollock; M. Stinson, Architect

ORGANIZATION

Committee to Save East Towson

DATE

6/30/77

STREET & NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Avenue

TELEPHONE

823-8870

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438





BA-1007  
Field House  
313 Lennox  
Towson, Md.  
South  
Merry Stinson  
1977